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*Unreached Peoples*

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# The Unreached Peoples' **ADVOCATE**

NEWS ON GLOBAL EFFORTS TO REACH THE LEAST REACHED



Published by Mission to Unreached Peoples (MUP)

October-December 2000

Vol. 3, No. 3

## The Unreached Peoples' **ADVOCATE**

A Newsletter of *Mission to Unreached Peoples*

News on Global Efforts to Reach the Least Reached

*(continued from page 3)*  
internationally, and we are committed to cooperation with like-minded believers throughout the world.

Putting it another way, we don't think Mission to Unreached Peoples is God's "answer" to missions. When somebody says, "Would you like to cooperate on a project?" our answer is almost automatically "Yes". If they are a solid organization, church, or somebody with a solid vision internationally, then our answer is "yes". We don't in any case want to go into an area and wave a MUP's flag. That's very much opposed to what we're trying to accomplish. If we can find someone local with whom we can partner and work, we usually do it.

One recent development is a joint training project, Equipped, that we are now involved with in the Seattle area. In partnership with several local churches and other ministries we are holding semi-annual training sessions both for people exploring missions and for those participating in an intensive pre-field,

two-week training course. The first sessions were held in September. Two other mission agencies joined with us as nine new candidates went through two weeks of training.

In the sixteen fields where Mission to Unreached Peoples is active, we can point to a large number of formal as well as informal partnerships. In fact, in each field we can typically list several partnership activities, ranging from sending churches, national churches, umbrella organizations and associations, other missions, individual missionaries, missionary schools, etc. Partnership is by far the norm, rather than the exception with Mission to Unreached Peoples.

We have seen God turn the hearts of many to a spirit of cooperation. Giving, sharing, and receiving of personnel and resources is part of what God is doing in this day to bring John 17 to pass. Christ is praying that we be unified, and finally we're making progress. PTL! ♦

**"So it is with Christ's body. We are all parts of his one body, and each of us has different work to do. And since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others."**

### Compassion Outreach in Cambodia

*AIDS Care Center touches lives*

by Wayne Matthyse

Having just returned from a month-long home visit in the States, I am excited about what lies ahead for me here in Cambodia. Prior to my vacation, I was involved in the planning and construction of an AIDS family center, one of the first in this country. Now it is nearly ready to open and our work is cut out for us.

The WAT OPOT PROJECT began only as an idea a few years ago. I had been working as a community health technician in several of the villages and slum areas surrounding Phnom Penh. During my visits, we were seeing an increasing number of people infected with the AIDS virus and a great deal of ignorance and fear in the communities regarding what should be done with them. We talked about building a hospice to care for the dying but that approach had already been done in countries like Thailand and Africa, and the results were not very encouraging. Most had become dumping grounds for unwanted family members where they would waste away along into the darkness of nothingness. We wanted to do something more for our patients and for the families they left behind who often feel guilty once the victim is gone.

**"When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick."**

**Matt. 14:14**

The family care idea came about as a

result of looking at some of the more successful programs in Thailand. Having a place where family members can learn how to care for their loved ones during the acute stages of the illness alleviates much of their ignorance and fear. Weekly home visits by trained health care teams, once the patient is discharged, assist not only the family, but the community as well, in increasing their understanding and acceptance of those living with AIDS. The teams will monitor the condition of each patient and will be equipped to provide continued medical as well as financial assistance, when needed, to affected families.

Having decided what we wanted to do, our next problem was a bit more complicated. Nearly 95% of Cambodia's 11 million people are Buddhist and for them to seek the help of a Christian organization is often prohibited. With an estimated 10% of the population being HIV positive, we knew that we would have to work alongside of the Buddhist monks if we were going to have any effect on the epidemic since the monks are trusted and respected by nearly everyone in times of crisis. Through seminars sponsored by the organization I work with, Buddhist monks were already being educated about AIDS and



Aids Care Center

its effects on their people. They, in turn, educated those in the communities they served. At the end of the seminars, however, it was apparent to everyone that

- 1  
AIDS Care Center in **Cambodia** meets a need and is a witness for Christ...
- 2  
**Mission Insights:**  
New missions role of partnership facilitator...
- Openings & Opportunities**  
Is God leading you or someone you know to one of these?
- 3  
**Director's View:**  
Partnerships advance the gospel...

more would need to be done. The family care center idea was proposed, accepted, and permission from the Buddhist leaders was given to build on the property of one of the Buddhist temples. Construction at WAT OPOT began in February of 2000.

During the building phase of the center, we spent much time in the community visiting AIDS victims, as well as others who were sick. We were well

received by the people in the villages and also by the Buddhist monks. We never hide the fact that we are Christians. *(continued on page 3, col 1)*

THIS ISSUE

Here are some of the openings and opportunities with Mission to Unreached Peoples:

EVERYWHERE

(1) *Evangelists & Church Planters* for Unreached Peoples

CAMBODIA

(6) *Medical Personnel* for village clinic work & AIDS hospice (see article page 1)

(7) *Cross-cultural Youth Worker*

(8) *Church Workers* of all types for ministry with Cambodian churches

INDIA

(2) A health and evangelism project needs *Physical and Occupational Therapists* to equip nationals to minister to the disabled.

NEPAL

(3) *Engineers & Managers*

(4) *Medical Personnel*

(5) *Teachers*

CHINA

(9) *English Teachers* and *Teachers at International Schools*.

(10) *Cross-cultural Church Planters* among tribals.

(11) *Doctors, Nurses, Therapists*.

(12) *Community Development Workers, Orphanage Workers, Agricultural Specialist, Small Business Developers*.

ASIA

(13) *Certified Teachers* needed at international schools.

(14) Field or North American-based *Member Care Personnel*

(15) *Medical, Computer, & Business Professionals* in Central Asia

POLAND

(16) *English Teachers* needed in public schools or for private tutoring.

(17) *Youth Worker* for local churches.

If interested call 1-888-847-6950

# Mission INSIGHTS

## Partnership Facilitator: A New Mission Role for a New Era

by Brian O'Connell

Over the last decade a new paradigm of ministry in missions has emerged: the evangelism / church planting partnership movement. Collaboration and partnership have been identified as one of the main reasons for the tremendous successes we have seen in beginning to reaching the great unreached peoples of the world for Christ.

Kyrgyzstan is a case in point. In 1990, there were but a handful of Kyrgyz national believers in the country and no Kyrgyz-speaking church. Just over a decade later there are now thousands of believers and dozens of Kyrgyz focused churches! The growth of the church has averaged nearly 42% over the past three years. Many Kyrgyz leaders give much of the credit to the effective witness by expatriate missionaries and emerging national leaders who have been working together in partnership.

The breakthrough in Kyrgyzstan is not unique. Mongolia, Algeria, Indonesia, Vietnam, and other places are experiencing the powerful witness and blessing that comes when God's people work together. We know that relationships are at the heart of the Gospel, and that unity among believers was Christ's prayer for His church in John 17. Partnerships offer the best model for relational cultures and can more effectively equip indigenous leadership.

The greatest need to make evangelism partnerships even more a reality is for missions-minded individuals to step forward to serve as facilitators of emerging or developing partnerships. What do these partnership facilitators do? As networkers, they become the communications hub among the different agencies. As visionaries, they hold onto and make known the vision of reaching the people group or area to which they've been called. As servant leaders, they are the glue that holds things together in between annual partnership planning

meetings, facilitating the process of collaboration. They understand the process and principles that effective partnerships need to have.

Explaining to the wider community the critical — and essential — nature of the facilitator role has not always been easy. Twenty five years ago if you would have talked about the position of webmaster, many people would have looked at you and asked why anyone would want to play with spiders! Yet, today in the computer industry no one questions its importance. Communicating the new missionary role of partnership facilitator has similar challenges.

**"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."**  
African Proverb

This is a classical "paradigm shift," a new definition of a missionary role and function. It is time for us not just to deploy workers for the harvest, but to develop new structures so that these workers will truly partner together with much more impact for the Kingdom. Partnership Facilitation is a new missionary task for the new millennium.

Can Mission to Unreached Peoples be an agency that can help lead the way to the future? ◆

=====  
Brian F. O'Connell serves as director of International Partnership Services for Interdev. He was one of the co-founders of World Evangelical Fellowship's Religious Liberty Commission and worked ten years for the National Association of Evangelicals in their Washington, DC office. Should you want more information on partnership facilitation, including the key strategic opportunities, facilitator training, etc., please contact Brian at: [BrianOConnell@xc.org](mailto:BrianOConnell@xc.org).

(continued from page 1)

At first the monks were cautious but later they accompanied us on some of our visits to the villages. Once they realized that we were only trying to help, they gave their full approval for the people to see us. One monk even commented that he did not believe it was possible for a Christian to show so much compassion for Buddhist people.

As the WOT OPOT PROJECT develops over the next few months, we hope to be adding more Christians to our staff who can demonstrate the kind of non-threatening compassion needed to win the hearts of the people here. The needs of the victims and their families are so great. The monks also have a great deal of compassion for the same



Wayne ministering in a Cambodian village near the center.

people but lack the resources to do much about it. As a Christian, I feel I must do all in my power to alleviate at least some of the suffering I witness nearly every day, even if that means working with others who do not see things in the LIGHT as I do. I can only work and pray that someday they will.

The present needs are so great that it is hard to know how this ministry will develop. Please pray for God's continued guidance. Children are also affected; some by contracting AIDS at birth, and others by becoming outcasts in the communities only because a family member has died of AIDS. At present, little is being done for or with any of these victims.

We ask for your prayers in these coming months that God will give us guidance and wisdom as we begin to develop our program and train the staff. We ask that God will help us be the kind of witness that is needed in this work. And we ask that God will provide strength to those whom HE is calling so that they will not hesitate to come, no matter what the cost.

"But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, <sup>34</sup>and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on *them*; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him." Luke 10:33 ◆

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November 15, 2000 / Vol. 3, No. 3

a quarterly newsletter on activities of Mission to Unreached Peoples and other mission efforts published by:

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Mission to Unreached Peoples (MUP) is an interdenominational agency helping people fulfill God's call in evangelism and church planting often through holistic creative strategies such as tentmaking and community development.

We would like to hear from you. If you desire more information about MUP or any articles, please contact the editor at the address above.

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SUBSCRIPTION: Free upon request

MUP is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization. Tax-deductible donations to the general fund, designated missionaries, and projects are greatly appreciated and can be sent to: Mission to Unreached Peoples  
P.O. Box 30947, Seattle, WA 98103-0947.

### Our Mission

Our mission is to obey the Great Commission of Jesus Christ by investing our lives, gifts, resources, and vocational skills in God's work throughout Asia and Europe.



## Director's VIEW

by David Hupp, U.S. Director

As a youth, I dreamed about a crazy idea of churches and Christians cooperating and working together. It seemed impossible, but God does tend to demonstrate over and over that He is a God of the impossible. We now see and hear that partnership is a current "buzzword" and trend in mission circles (see Brian O'Connell's article about Interdev), and we are in fact seeing significant progress in missions, churches, and Christian organizations working together. We rejoice greatly

to see this happening—And what a joy to be part of that!

Recent Interdev reports indicate that worldwide there are approximately 65 operating mission partnerships, 18 operational regional consultations, and 91 developing partnerships. MUP is a participant in some of those.

At Mission to Unreached Peoples, partnership is integral to who we are and how we operate. Our mission statement and foundational values put it this way: We work with other Christians, both interdenominationally and (continued on page 4)